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While we might score some  points today by returning things we've borrowed, asking for forgiveness , or doing some cleaning , our New Year's resolutions tend to focus on self-improvement. We promise to improve our health by breaking bad habits or adopting good ones.  We pledge to improve our finances by saving more , spending less, or keeping better accounts.  And we vow to improve our relationships by being a better spouse, parent, or friend. 

Here at DWE, our New Year's resolutions also are about improvement – improving the services we offer, improving the way we offer them, and improving our facilities . The following are some of our resolutions:


Adult Education

- Meet federal performance indicators, which increase every year 
- Increase public awareness of adult education and literacy needs
- Pursue additional state funding  (no increase has been appropriated since 1992)
- Upgrade systems and explore distance education programs 
- Finalize an agreement with the Department of Higher Education for data matching
- Continue work on the Career Pathways to Progress initiative






Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

- Recruit a new generation of future employees
- Continue to develop new leadership potential





- ↳ Increase marketing and awareness of the value of the rehabilitation program
- ↳ Increase resources  through continuing partnerships with community and state programs
- ↳ Expand and enhance programs at the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center







Career and Technical Education









- ↳ Create/Improve systems 
- ↳ Update manuals and frameworks 
- ↳ Improve communication with teachers, school administrators, and business and industry contacts
- ↳ Encourage industry certification for teachers 
- ↳ Promote teacher membership in the Arkansas Association for Career and Technical Education 
- ↳ Promote the new Education and Training  program of study

Federal Surplus Property

- ↳ Increase  the number of groups served
- ↳ Increase the amount of large-ticket items available
- ↳ Upgrade computers 
- ↳ Add a conference/break room to the facility

Workforce Training

- ↳ Roll out a Web-based staff development program for career and technical education teachers that will culminate in certification  or a bachelor's  in technical education to replace the current program that was put in place 25 years ago (this is a joint project with faculty at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville)
- ↳ Veterans Approving Agency  – expand outreach activities to troops  returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq
- ↳ Governor's Dislocated Worker Task Force  – move offices to the Department of Workforce Services so we can better utilize talent and work together as a team
- ↳ Secondary area technical centers – work with schools  not served by a center to get legislative support to fund centers in those areas

Since our resolutions are all focused on improving the lives of the citizens of Arkansas  ,
 we are all in for a busy and productive  year. I look forward  to working with each of you
 in carrying  out the mission given to us by the people of this state to provide leadership
 and contribute resources  to service the diverse and changing career  and education needs
 of youths  and adults. 

In closing, I would like to share with all of you an old favorite toast of mine to the new year.



Here's to the bright New Year
 And a fond farewell to the old:
 Here's to the things that are yet to come
 And to the memories that we hold.

